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ABSTRACT

This book provides preservice elementary school teachers with comprehensive coverage of the major themes, issues, concepts, and skill areas involved in planning, implementing, and evaluating instruction. The volume begins with a model for reflective decision making. Then, the process of analyzing and selecting content, outcomes, and assessments for a consumer education interdisciplinary unit is presented and explained. The next chapters establish a knowledge base about student characteristics (learning styles and cultural background), constructivist and other learning theories, and authentic learning principles. The middle section of the book concentrates on planning direct, inductive (problem-based) and social (cooperative and simulation) lessons while taking into consideration special student needs. The final chapters deal with establishing a positive learning climate, classroom management, and continuing professional growth. Each chapter begins with a "Set Activity" to focus the student's mind and to activate prior knowledge related to the topic, then "Chapter Objectives" are listed, and key points are summarized. After each segment, the reader is asked to complete a brief "Check for Understanding" activity. At the end of each chapter "Guided and Independent Practice" assignments are provided. (Author/LL)

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